



Medicare^{Rx}

Prescription Drug Coverage ^{Rx}

Facilitated Enrollment and Enrollment Reconciliation

**2006 National *Medicare & You* Training
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
April 7, 2006**

**Panel: Randy Brauer
Sharon Donovan
Jeff Grant**



Facilitated Enrollment

April 7, 2006

2

Facilitated Enrollment

- Medicare will facilitate the enrollment of people who qualify for extra help but have not yet enrolled
 - Effective **May 1, 2006**
 - Previously set for June 1, 2006
- Ensures people who qualify for extra help
 - Can access the drug benefit sooner

Who Is Affected?

- Approximately 1 million people
- Three groups
 - Medicare Savings Programs
 - Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)
 - Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
 - Qualifying Individual (QI)
 - SSI-only
 - Those who apply and qualify for extra help

How Are Plans Chosen?

- Plans are randomly assigned
 - Not based on person's prescriptions
 - Not based on pharmacy preference
- Premiums at/below regional benchmark
 - Beneficiaries with full subsidy pay no premium
 - Beneficiaries with partial subsidy pay reduced or no premium

Facilitated Enrollment Notices

- CMS is sending notices to people in Original Medicare Plan
 - First 2 weeks of April 2006
 - Green paper
 - Two versions
 - Full subsidy
 - Partial subsidy
 - Include list of plans in that region at/below benchmark premium

Facilitated Enrollment Notices

- Medicare Advantage plan members
 - Receive notice by April 10, 2006
 - Will not receive green notice

Who Will Not Be Enrolled?

- People in employer plans receiving the retiree drug subsidy
 - Will not receive green notice
 - Will not be facilitated into a plan
- People in some State Pharmacy Assistance Programs
 - NY, NJ, CT, PA, and IL
 - Will not be enrolled by CMS at this time

Beneficiary Options

- Stay in assigned plan
 - Do nothing and allow the facilitated enrollment to take effect
- Enroll in another plan of their choice
 - By April 30, 2006
- Decline to be enrolled in a plan
 - Call 1-800-Medicare or
 - Call the plan named in the notice, and
 - Ask to disenroll from plan AND not be enrolled again by Medicare

What to Expect

- Plan will send
 - Enrollment letter
 - Membership materials, including card
 - Toll-free phone number and website for more information
- Person can get transition supply
 - If drug not covered by plan
 - Generally 30 days
 - Work with physician to find a drug that is covered
- Person has the right to ask for
 - An exception (type of coverage determination)
 - Appeal, if exception not granted by plan

Switching Plans

- Dual eligibles and MSPs
 - Have continuous Special Enrollment Period
 - Can switch plans once/month

Switching Plans (*cont'd*)

- Others CMS facilitates into a plan May 1
 - Includes
 - Medicare and SSI-only
 - People who apply and qualify for extra help
 - Can change until May 15, 2006, and
 - Have Special Enrollment Period
 - Can switch plans once before end of 2006

Enrolling for Plan Year 2007

- Annual Coordinated Election Period
 - November 15 – December 31, 2006
- All people with Medicare
 - Can join or choose new plan
 - Effective January 1, 2007
- Will be an Annual Coordinated Election Period each year

Enrollment Reconciliation

Special Notice To Confirm Medicare Plan Choice

Enrollment Reconciliation

- A systems logic error early in implementation
 - Caused some plans not to be notified that a plan member had enrolled in a different plan
- Plans sent letters on CMS letterhead
 - To people affected by this error
 - Nationwide
- Everyone affected
 - Will continue to have uninterrupted access to Medicare drug coverage

Enrollment Reconciliation

- Purpose of enrollment reconciliation
 - Ensure that people are enrolled in the plan they want
- Letter asks recipients to confirm choice of Medicare drug plan
 - If want to stay in Medicare plan of record, they do not have to do anything

People Enrolling In Initial Plan

- If want to stay in initial plan
 - Call the plan and enroll in that plan
 - Will be automatically disenrolled from the current plan once this enrollment is processed
 - Plans have until April 15 to submit enrollment transactions to CMS
 - Enrollments received by April 15 will be retroactive to date person first enrolled in a Part D plan
 - Enrollments received April 16 - April 30 will be effective May 1, 2006

Resources

■ Facilitated Enrollment

- Fact sheet
 - <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1806>
- Notice: Full Subsidy Version
 - <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/Downloads/11186.Full.pdf>
- Notice: Partial Subsidy Version
 - <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/Downloads/11191.PARTIAL.pdf>

■ Enrollment Reconciliation

- Fact sheet
 - http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/20_ER.asp
- Model notices
 - <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/downloads/planchoice.pdf>
 - <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/downloads/planchoicemapd.pdf>

For More Information

- Visit www.cms.hhs.gov
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE
- Call State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for SHIP telephone number
 - TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048

Thank You for Your Attention!

- A recording of this training will be available after April 12
 - <http://media.cms.hhs.gov/cms/partner04072006.wma>